

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An apparatus to plasma coat a stent, comprising:
a mandrel supporting a stent;
a first plasma member circumscribing the mandrel, the first plasma member being grounded;
a second plasma member circumscribing the first plasma member; and
a plasma generating source in communication with the second plasma member.
2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first plasma member is a first hollow tubular body in which the mandrel is positioned, and wherein the second plasma member is a second hollow tubular body in which the first hollow tubular body is positioned.
3. (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the first and second hollow tubular bodies include perforations.
4. (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the stent is positioned in the center of the first hollow body.
5. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the stent does not contact the first plasma member during the coating process.
6. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first plasma member is a hollow tubular body in which the mandrel is positioned and wherein the second plasma member is a coil element wrapped around the first tubular body.
7. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plasma generating source is a radio frequency generating source or a microwave generating source.
8. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, additionally including

a first plate member in communication with the first plasma member;
a second plate member positioned over the first plate member and in
commutation with the second plasma member; and
an insulator disposed between the first and second plate members to
electrically insulate the plate members.

9. (original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the mandrel extends from the first plate member into the first plasma element.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus to coat an implantable medical device, comprising:

a first tubular member;
a source that supplies a polymerizable monomer gas to the first tubular member;

a second tubular member in which an implantable medical device can be placed, the second tubular member being positioned within the first tubular member and the second tubular member being electrically isolated from the first tubular member; and
an energy source in communication with the first tubular member.

11. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein tubular members include bodies having holes disposed therein.

12. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the energy source is configured to create plasma within the first tubular body.

13. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the second tubular body is grounded.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent and wherein the apparatus further comprises a mandrel extending within the second tubular member for supporting the stent.

15. (withdrawn) A method of forming a coating for an implantable medical device, comprising:

(a) placing the an implantable medical device within the apparatus of Claim 10, the apparatus being positioned in an enclosed chamber;

(b) supplying a plasma-polymerizable monomer or a blend of monomers in a gaseous form into the chamber; and

(c) initiating a plasma to the to cause the polymerization of the monomer to form a coating on the implantable medical device.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, additionally including grounding the second tubular member.

17. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to modify a surface of the stent.

18. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to form a polymer film on a surface of the stent.

19. (new) The apparatus of Claim 18, further comprising a plasma-polymerizable monomer that is in a gaseous form and is inside the second plasma member.

20. (new) The apparatus of Claim 19, further comprising a source that supplies the polymerizable monomer gas to the second tubular member.

21. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to induce polymerization of a plasma-polymerizable monomer on a surface of the stent to form a polymer film.

22. (new) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the plasma-polymerizable monomer is in a gaseous form and is inside the second plasma member.

23. (new) The apparatus of Claim 22, further comprising a source that supplies the polymerizable monomer gas to the second tubular member.

24. (new) An apparatus to plasma coat a stent, comprising:
a first plasma member circumscribing a stent mandrel, the first plasma member being grounded;
a second plasma member circumscribing the first plasma member; and

a plasma generating source in communication with the second plasma member, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to modify a surface of the stent by forming a polymer film on the surface of the stent.

25. (new) The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising a plasma-polymerizable monomer that is in a gaseous form and is inside the second plasma member.

26. (new) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein forming the polymer film on the surface of the stent includes inducing polymerization of the plasma-polymerizable monomer on the surface of the stent to form the polymer film.

27. (new) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the plasma-polymerizable monomer is in a gaseous form and is inside the second plasma member.

28. (new) The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising a source that supplies the polymerizable monomer gas to the second tubular member.